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QUESTION OF CYPRUS
CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL
ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN
PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN
ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 3 November 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 3 November 1999, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 63, 107, 108, 109, 110, 112 and 114, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volkan VURAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 3 November 1999 from the Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the statements made by the Greek Cypriot representative to the Third Committee of the General Assembly on 13, 19, 22 and 28 October 1999, under agenda items 109, "Advancement of Women", 110, "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women", 107, "Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice", 108, "International Drug Control", 114, "Elimination of racism and racial discrimination" and 112, "Promotion and protection of the rights of children", respectively. These statements contain allegations that distort the facts about the Cyprus issue. It is regrettable that the Greek Cypriot side still persists in conducting the misinformation campaign that further deepens the crisis of confidence between the two sides. Since the Turkish Cypriot side is being denied its right of say in the said Committee, I am compelled to respond to these allegations in writing.

The Greek Cypriot representative repeatedly refers to Northern Cyprus as "occupied areas". I wish to reiterate that the only illegal occupation in Cyprus is the 36-year-old usurpation and continued occupation by the Greek Cypriot side of the seat of government of the bi-national Republic of Cyprus.

The Greek Cypriot side's attempted portrayal of the Cyprus issue as one of "invasion" and "occupation" by Turkey is not corroborated by historical facts. The plain truth is that the Cyprus problem was created in 1963 when the Greek Cypriot wing of the Republic of Cyprus, established under international treaties, tried to impose its political will on the Turkish Cypriots by force of arms. As a result of the Greek Cypriot onslaught in December 1963, Turkish Cypriots were forcefully ejected from all state organs and subjected to a brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing. Hundreds of civilians were killed and thousands rendered homeless refugees.

Turkey intervened on the island following the coup d'état engineered by Greece in 1974 with the aim of annexing the island. The coup itself was described by the Greek Cypriot leader, Archbishop Makarios, in his speech before the Security Council on 19 July 1974, as "an invasion" by Greece.

The Turkish intervention in Cyprus was carried out against the background of an 11-year-old systematic campaign of oppression and discrimination directed against the Turkish Cypriots by the Greek Cypriot side. The continuation of effective Turkish guarantees under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee is thus regarded as indispensable by the Turkish Cypriot people.

It is evident from the above that the Greek Cypriot administration, which bears full responsibility for the creation and perpetuation of the Cyprus question, has no right to make false accusations against Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. It is pertinent that the world community is fully aware of what kind of an establishment the Greek Cypriot administration truly is. This is an administration that has practised ethnic cleansing and all forms

of violence against the Turkish Cypriots between 1963 and 1974, and has since continued to wage a war of attrition against Northern Cyprus through an all-embracing inhuman embargo.

The Greek Cypriot representative has the audacity to complain over his side's "inability" to implement certain international instruments and plans of action in what he describes as "occupied areas" of Cyprus. I should like to emphasize, first of all, that there exist in Cyprus two independent and sovereign states representing the two peoples. The Greek Cypriot administration has no legal or moral right to claim to represent anyone other than the Greek Cypriot people. It has no jurisdiction to represent or act on behalf of the Turkish Cypriot people whose legitimate representatives are those elected under the Constitution of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Furthermore, for the Greek Cypriot side to claim any kind of jurisdiction or authority over Northern Cyprus, or to complain about not being able to apply human rights provisions of certain conventions to the island as a whole, is utter hypocrisy since the historical record shows clearly that from 1963 to 1974, even the most fundamental rights of the Turkish Cypriots, including their right to life, liberty and security, were grossly violated.

The Greek Cypriot representative has tried also to portray the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus as a centre for money-laundering and drug trafficking. In fact, reports by authoritative sources and international press clearly indicate that it is the Greek Cypriot-controlled Southern Cyprus which serves as a centre for such illicit activities. Only recently, at the United States House of Representatives Banking and Financial Services Committee hearing, held on 21 September 1999, on the issue of corruption and money-laundering, Representative Doug Bereuter stated, inter alia: "All you have to do today is to go to Cyprus and see the impact of money-laundering on their economy. It has become a centre of money-laundering for money coming out of the former Soviet Union".

The Greek Cypriot daily Mahi, of 15 September 1999, quoting from a Greek newspaper, Eksusia, has reported that South Cyprus is being used as a centre for money-laundering through off-shore banks and companies. According to this report, some 10 billion United States dollars have been laundered through such companies established in South Cyprus.

As for the problem of drug trafficking in Cyprus, one would expect the Greek Cypriot administration to put its own house in order before even attempting to accuse others. I would like to refer to a recent statement by Mr. Christakides Kachikides, Chief of the Narcotics Branch of the Greek Cypriot Police Department, published in the Greek Cypriot daily, Simerini, of 1 November 1999. Mr. Kachikides conceded that drug abuse in South Cyprus was a problem affecting "thousands of Greek Cypriots". He further stated that consumption of drugs such as cocaine and heroin in South Cyprus has increased over time.

The Greek Cypriot administration is using its usurped title as the "Government of Cyprus" as a political weapon to disseminate at the United Nations and other international forums unfounded allegations against the Turkish Cypriot side and Turkey and to cover up its own poor record with respect to

human rights and other related issues. Unless this campaign of misinformation is abandoned in favour of a fresh and realistic approach, the prospects for promoting confidence between the two sides and ultimately reaching a settlement between the two states, will remain bleak.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 63, 107, 108, 109, 110, 112 and 114, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus